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5. In so far as concerns the city of Lille our opinion is that it is our duty to recommend to the municipal administration of the city the process of Messrs. Marmier and Abraham, as we have satisfied ourselves of the assured innocuousness and the security acquired by the waters of Emmerin, which are used by all the inhabitants of the province of Lille.

We think that having been given the security afforded by this method of purification the city of Lille would find it advantageous to immediately increase the output of the present springs by simply leading in the waters of the river, or streams of the neighborhood, roughly filtered by a dike of sand, these to be sterilized at the same time with the water of the springs by the ozonizing apparatus.

Whatever may be the depth to which will penetrate the subterranean galleries which are at present projected for a water supply in the neighborhood of Lille, we do not think it can be safely affirmed that the water collected will be safe from surface contamination by reason of the homogeneous nature of the soil alone.

The tunnels pierced into the chalk which supply the city of Rheims afford an example of this. The content of germs and organic matter which is there found varies to a large extent (from 2,000 to 5,000 germs and 12 to 40 milligrams of organic matter per liter), and typhoid fever makes frequent ravages in the population of the city. The collection of deep waters by means of deep borings only gives to hygienists, therefore, a slightly greater security than a surface collection.

We think, therefore, that in order to avoid the propagation of infectious diseases through the instrumentality of drinking water, the latter should be sterilized by an efficient process, such as that the results of which we have set forth in the above report.

By the Commission.

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

El Paso, Tex., October 20, 1900—Inspection service.—I have the honor to submit the following summary of work at this station the week ended October 20, 1900: Inspection of Mexican Central Railroad passenger trains, 140 persons; inspection of Rio Grande and Pacific Railroad passenger trains, 37 persons; disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc., of Mexican immigrants, 34 bundles; disinfection of hides imported from Mexico, 412; disinfection of soiled linen imported for laundry, 415. At the time Texas established its quarantine here against bubonic plague the Mexican Government instructed the Ciudad Juarez authorities to enforce a quarantine against San Francisco. Instructions have been received now from the Mexican Government to raise the quarantine.

E. ALEXANDER,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Another death from plague in San Francisco.

The Bureau has received the report of a death from plague in San Francisco which occurred October 14. The diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriologic examination and animal inoculations.